Review of the use of DDT as Insecticide

1817. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of D.D.T. as insecticide is harmful to the plants as well as to the Ecosystem;

(b) if so, whether any review has been made on the continued use of DDT as insecticide; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RESEARCH IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) An Expert Committee was set up by Government to review all the pesticides in use at present in the country with a view to banning the production, import and use of those which are no longer in use in other countries. The Expert Committee has submitted its report on DDT, which is under consideration.

Launching of Individual Housing Loan Scheme

1818. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch individual housing loan scheme;

(b) whether Housing Development Finance Corporation proposes to launch such loan scheme, linked to special type of Life Insurance Policy; and

(c) if so, what are the terms and conditions, including the rate of interest etc. under this individual housing loan schme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Housing Bank is being set up at the apex level, to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels for the purpose.

(b) and (c) The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) proposes to introduce a Life Insurance Policy linked—Loan Scheme. The details of the scheme are being worked out by the HDFC in consultation with the Life Insurance Corporation.

Development of Horticulture in Orissa

1819. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the different horticultural developmental programmes undertaken in Orissa during 1987-88 and the Central assistance given to the State for that purpose during that year;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase areas under horticulture during the 1988-89 financial year; and

(c) if so, the various horticultural developmental programmes proposed to be taken up in Orissa in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Various programmes such strengthening of departmental nurseries for productionand supply of quality planting material, package programme on Cashewnut development, contingency plan for increasing production of ve-